

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166751

FOL REPEAT OF STATE 166751 TO ROME JUL 15

QTE:C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166751

E.T. 16652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CALL BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

1. DURING PRE-ACCREDITATION COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY JULY 14, NEWLY-ARRIVED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GAJA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. GAJA SAID KEYSTONE OF ITALIAN POLICY WAS ITS "FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE UNITED STATES. EVEN THOUGH EUROPE WAS IN A PERIOD OF TRANSITION, WITH HISTORICAL TRADITIONS OF 1848 ABOUT TO BE REPLACED BY NEW ATTITUDES, AND EVEN THOUGH THE SITUATION WITHIN ITALY ITSELF WAS DEVELOPING IN NEW DIRECTIONS, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN ITALY'S FOREIGN POLICIES. THESE WERE ANCHORED ON THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND ORIENTED TOWARD EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY, BUT THERE COULD BE NO EUROPE WITHOUT THE ALLIANCE.

3. GAJA SAID PEOPLE OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT FOR THE PAST CONFIDENTIAL

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THIRTY YEARS ITALY HAD BEEN MOST STABLE COUNTRY OF WESTERN EUROPE. EESPITE FREQUENT GOVERNMENT CHANGES, THERE WAS N COUNTRY WHERE ONE PARTY HAD BEEN IN POWER FOR SO LONG. NOW, JUNE 15 ELECTION RESULTS HAD RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROSPECTS. HE HIMSELF WAS CONVINCED PCI WOULD NOT WANT TO JOIN GOVERNMENT, AT LEAST NOT FOR THE TIME

BEING, AND DID NOT WANT A WEAK DC. IN FACT, PCI NEEDED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT WHILE PCI PREPARED ITSELF TO ASSUME TOTAL POWER. GAJA THOUGHT THAT ANY PCI "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD CAUSE THE FORMER TO LOSE MANY OF ITS SUPPORTERS. HE BELIEVED LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WERE MOST INADVISABLE. PERHAPS DC COULD REGAIN SOME OF ITS LOSSES, AND PCI MIGHT DROP. BUT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DISARRAY WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN DEOCRAT PARTY STRONGLY ARGUED AGAINST THE ELECTIONS.

4. GAJA SAID HE HAD SEEN ALL POLITICAL PARTY SECRETARIES AND MANY DC LEADERS IN DAYS JUST PRECEDING HIS OWN DEPARTURE. FANFANI HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS DETERMINED TO FIGHT IT OUT. (GAJA TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER EARLIER THAT FANFANI HAD ALSO HAD UNKIND THINGS TO SAY ABOUT RUMOR AND MORO.) HOWEVER, FANFANI'S CONTROL OVER DC PARTY WAS LIMITED TO PERHAPS 30 PERCENT, SO THAT OTHERS WHOM GAJA HAD TALKED TO HAD TAKED ABOUT REPLACING FANFANI AS PARTY SECRETARY. PEOPLE LIKE PICCOLI AND FORLANI HAD BEEN MENTIONED. ANDROTTI WAS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY. (EARLIER GAJA HAD SAID ANDREOTTI TOLD HIM THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 30 YEARS HE DID NOT SEE WHERE PRESENT SITUATION WAS HEADING.)

5. GAJA THOUGHT MORO GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL DC AND SOCIALIST CONGRESSES IN THE FALL. HE SAID ITALY WAS MUCH BETTER OFF THAN FRANCE IN THAT ITALIAN SOCIALISTS CONTINUED TO PREFER TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

6. GAJA SAID PRESENT ITALIAN SITUATION WAS VERY DELICATE, AND GOI HOPED IT WOULD BENEFIT FROM WHAT RUMOR HAD DESCRIBED AS "STRATEGY OF ATTENTION" FROM THE U.S. MARKS OF OUR ATTENTION COULD INCLUDE VISITS TO ITALY BY AMERICAN PERSONALITIES OR, IN PARTICULAR, AN INVITATION TO RUMOR TO CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY DURING ITALY'S PRESIDENCY OF EC COUNCIL. A "STRATEGY OF ATTENTION" WOULD ALSO NOT EXCLUDE ITALY FROM THINGS LIKE "MEETINGS HELD IN CONNECTION WITH EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT" BUT WOULD INCLUDE SUPPORT TO ITALY IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS IN CONNECTION WITH IAEA SEAT. DEPUTY SECRETARY CLARIFIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO "U.S. MEETINGS" IN CONNECTION WITH EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE (GAJA APPARENTLY HAD IBRD-SPONSORED MEETING IN MIND - SEE STATE 164137) AND THAT OUR POSITION ON ITALIAN IAEA SEAT HAD BEEN CATEGORICALLY FAVORABLE. MOREOVER, WE HAD MADE A POINT OF SPEAKING FAVORABLY OF ITALY'S NPT ACCESSION IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD ENCOURAGE FRG AND JAPAN TO DO LIKEWISE. WHEN GAJA ALSO MENTIONED "CUT-OFF" IN SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID PRESIDENT HAD TAKEN PAINS TO REASSURE OUR CUSTOMERS

THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CANCELLATION OF CONTRACTS. DEPUTY
SECRETARY ASSURED GAJA WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR POLICY OF
LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ITALIANS, AND HE
INVITED GAJA TO INFORM US WHENEVER HE BELIEVED SUCH POSSI-
BILITY EXISTED. INGERSOLL UNQTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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